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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,466	06/26/2003	Young-Hoon Kim	5000-1-376	6491
33942	7590	03/19/2004	EXAMINER	
CHA & REITER, LLC 210 ROUTE 4 EAST STE 103 PARAMUS, NJ 07652				WONG, ERIC K
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2874		

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/607,466	KIM ET AL.
	Examiner Eric Wong	Art Unit 2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to application filed on 26 June 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed on 6/26/03.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because Figure 8 is not clear. Examiner suggests using dotted lines to represent the power of either the present invention or prior art. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Inventorship

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication 2003/0063891 to Kim.

Kim discloses in the background of the invention as well as figures 6 and 7, a wavelength division multiplexer/demultiplexer comprising:

A first sub-waveguide having a width and a parabolic horn shape that gradually increases in a progressing direction of an optical signal (230, Figure 6); and

A second sub-waveguide having a width that gradually decreases in the progressing direction of the optical signal passing through the first sub-waveguide (240, figure 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of applicant's disclosure of prior art.

Kim discloses an optical device with two waveguides that gradually increase then decrease in a progressing direction, but fails to explicitly disclose a grating or a waveguide defined by the equation as claimed in line 3 of claim 6.

Applicant discloses in equation 2, and line 5 of page 2, the equation as claimed in claim 6 and arrayed waveguide gratings (AWG).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the equation and AWG supplied by Applicant's disclosure of prior art in order to supply a flat field profile and to increase the bandwidth of an optical communications line.

8. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of an optimum range.

Kim discloses a second waveguide with a width that gradually decreases, but fails to explicitly disclose a shape that is defined by Equation 9.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a second waveguide in a shape defined by Equation 9, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

9. Claims 1, 3-5, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0154863 to Mizuno et al., and in view of United States Patent Number 5,917,972 to Davies.

Mizuno et al. discloses in figures 4 and 5, a PLC having an arrayed waveguide grating with an input waveguide that has a waveguide with a increasing width, but fails to explicitly disclose an input waveguide having a first sub-waveguide with a gradually increasing width and second sub waveguide with a gradually decreasing width.

Davies discloses an input waveguide having a first sub-waveguide with a gradually increasing width and second sub waveguide with a gradually decreasing width in figure 1 in order to amplify or modulate a signal.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the optical device of Davies in order to better concentrate light to output into the PLC with an arrayed waveguide grating to minimize transmission losses.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

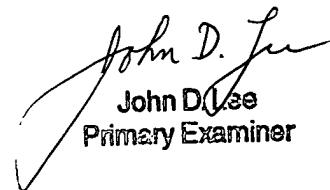
a. United States Patent Application Publication 2004/0001663 to Vodradalli et al. for a planar Lightwave circuit having a first sub-waveguide with a gradually increasing width and second sub waveguide with a gradually decreasing width.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-2363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830AM - 430PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EW



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